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Harold C. Cahill

A

BRIEF EXPLANATORY
REPORT,
AS TO THE
TERMINATION OF THE
HUNGARIAN STRUGGLE;

THE CAPITULATION OF THE
FORTRESS OF COMORN;
2
AND THE OBJECTS, PROBABLE EXTENT, AND OTHER
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence is published by the direction of the Committee raised by the Citizens of New-York, for the relief of the Hungarian Exiles; and the object of the publication, as will be apparent, is to disseminate, as widely as possible, facts of great interest in regard to these gallant and unfortunate men, with a view to the more efficient promotion of those measures which are now under way for their permanent relief.

By order of the Committee.

M. VAN SCHAICK,

Chairman.

ROBERT LENOX KENNEDY,

Secretary.

New-York, December 29th, 1849.

GOVERNOR LADISLAUS UJHAZY ;

AND COUNT VASS, &c., &c., &c.

GENTLEMEN: We have been appointed a Sub-Committee, by the General Committee raised for the relief of the Refugees from Hungary ; and take the liberty of addressing you, for the purpose of procuring some information which is important for our own guidance, and that of those of our fellow-citizens whose aid we are desirous to obtain.

Will you have the goodness to let us know the circumstances attendant on the final termination of the Hungarian struggle, and the surrender of Comorn, so far as to apprise us of the probable extent and character of the Hungarian emigration which we may expect here. We are aware that Count Vass was not at Comorn at the

time of its capitulation ; but his position, as a member of the Diet, and his general familiarity with the condition of the country, will, we think, enable him to give us important information.

We are, gentlemen,

With the highest respect,

Your obedient servants,

THEODORE SEDGWICK,
S. DRAPER.

TO THEODORE SEDGWICK AND S. DRAPER, ESQRS.

GENTLEMEN : Called upon by you, the Sub-Committee of the honorable Committee formed in favor of the Hungarian Refugees, to give explanations concerning the termination of the Hungarian struggle, and of the circumstances attending the capitulation of the Fortress of Comorn ; and also concerning the extent, objects and other circumstances of the probable Hungarian emigration, I have the honor, in pursuance of this request, to submit herewith the desired explanatory report.

I do this in accordance with my best knowledge and belief, but must ask your indulgence, if, owing to my ignorance of the English language, in which I cannot express myself originally, my thoughts are not so fully and completely given as the dignity of the subject and the highly valued attention you bestow on our cause require.

Accept, gentlemen, the assurances of my very great respect.

Your obd't servant,

LADISLAUS UJHAZY,

New-York, January 1, 1850.

A BRIEF EXPLANATORY REPORT, &c.

One of the most interesting and stirring periods of the Hungarian Revolution, and of our struggle for freedom, began on the day when, after the glorious victory on the Banks of the Theiss, gained by Damjanics, one of our ablest leaders, the Austrian mercenaries were steadily driven back toward the west, followed by other splendid successes and glorious battles, which resulted in raising the siege of Comorn, that had been obstinately but vainly pressed through the winter months, and in the storming and occupation of our capital, Buda Pesth.

This first favorable turn of affairs, beginning with the battle of Szolnok on one hand, raised the spirits of our people, and on the other, roused them to their utmost efforts, and to sacrifices both of property and blood.

But while the nation was ready to sacrifice, it wished, at the same time, to know the object for which these sacrifices were made and their blood poured out. Up to the above mentioned period, notwithstanding Windischgrätz had proposed for his aim the unconditional subjection of the land, the dispositions of the diet were made purely in the spirit of a constitutional resistance, and the struggle was, so to speak, carried on in the name of the dethroned Ferdinand, against the young usurper, Franz Joseph.

As in all revolutions, so in ours, there were several parties. There were some who intended to wage this contest simply for the recovery of the constitution of 1848,

who wished to keep open a way of retreat, so that they might, in case of an unsuccessful issue, fall back under Austrian rule.

Others, of whom I was one, wished to sacrifice their property and their blood for a grander, more worthy object, namely : for a separation from Austria and the founding of a Republic.

In pursuance of this ardent wish, there was formed in March, at first in the bosom of the diet, a Democratic Republican Club, which holding public sessions and honoring me with the presidency, had for its object the hastening of the declaration of independence, and consultation upon all subjects of interest that might occur.

The members of this Society very soon composed a majority, both in the upper house and the house of representatives, so that the then existing government, the so called Committee of national defence, under the presidency of Louis Kossuth, felt itself incited to a declaration of independence.

This resolution was solemnly announced in the Cathedral of Debreczin, in the presence of a countless multitude. Kossuth there delivered an eloquent discourse, in which he so powerfully and vividly depicted the injustice, treachery and perjury for three centuries practised by Austria upon Hungary, that every hearer uttered curses against that tyrannical and deceitful House.

On this occasion, Kossuth was appointed by one universal, thundering acclamation, Governor of the country. This event occurred on the 14th of April. When, shortly after, the Governor having named his new Ministry, its President, Bartholomew Szemere, brought forward, with distinguished energy and decision, his republican programme, there followed such a lively expression of applause as I had never before heard, and which sufficiently indicated how well he met the views of the National Assembly, and to what maturity, even at that time, those principles had attained.

From this decisive epoch onward, the main care of the Hungarian Government was to place the administration

of the country in the hands of men of purely republican sentiments, who fully approved the Declaration of Independence. It accordingly sent Csanyi, who was afterwards unhappily executed, to Transylvania, and to my fidelity it committed the Fortress of Comorn and the surrounding region—"Comorn," as the old proverb runs, "the key of the Magyar land." The office was a difficult one to fill ; but I accepted the mission, in the sacred consciousness of my duty ; and under such circumstances, in the month of May, relieved the person to whom the Government had formerly given it in charge. I mention all this only to designate the truly revolutionary moment at which I commenced my administration in Comorn. The nature of my duties may be discovered from the spirit of the period. It was to confirm the principles of Independence and of the Republic that had been declared, to induce obedience to the new government, on the part of the citizens and the troops, and to provide for the material wants of the army. For this latter purpose, and in case I should become isolated from the Government, I was empowered to issue 5,000,000 gulden (*Conventions—Münze*,) \$2,500,000, in national bank notes.

My sphere of action in civil affairs, both political and judicial, was restricted by no limits but entire responsibility to my government ; and my sole instructions were to do what the cause of the country and of freedom required.

The command-in-chief of the troops was committed to Genl. Klapka ; my participation in military affairs consisted in a seat and vote at the council of war, which could not be held without my presence.

The territorial extent of my administration, of which Comorn was the chief seat, included besides the County of Comorn, the five adjoining Counties with their capital, to wit, Esztergam, Bars, Nyitra, Gyôr and Veszpreim, for which I was authorized to appoint sub-commissioners. The population of the City of Comorn amounted to 20,000, that of the six counties to 1,140,000, with an area of 350 geographical square miles. I regret that I cannot ex-

hibit the original documents, and the orders of the government that were directed to me. They would have fully explained the nature of my position. But as I was obliged to wait a week after the surrender of the fortress of Comorn for my traveling passport, during which time the searching of houses by the Austrian soldiery was the order of the day, I was obliged to destroy these valuable documents that I might not expose the lives of individuals mentioned in them, who were deeply engaged in the revolution.

Thus much of the position and nature of the office entrusted to me. I now proceed to the main event, the conditions and execution of the surrender of the fortress which brought my services to the fatherland to so painful a close.

From the time when the government was moved from Pesth to Szegedin, and from there again to Arad, the communication between it and the fortress of Comorn was so much interrupted, that the numerous couriers who were dispatched, either could not return, or were unable to reach the seat of government. And then my position was a most painful one, cut off not only from the rest of the civilized world, but also from my own government. In such a condition of things, deprived of all protection and assistance from that source, we were obliged to procure for ourselves all the necessary means of preservation; but the zeal and willingness of the people admirably supported our operations. The troops were accordingly provided with all things necessary, and it was subsequently shown that no deprivations could shake their firmness. They could not, however, have been furnished with sufficient warm clothing for the approaching winter. But owing to this favorable disposition of the army, and the skilful military tactics of Genl. Klapka, the sally of the 3d of August succeeded so well, that thousands of the enemy, flying as far as Presburgh, were slain or taken prisoners, and the booty amounted to millions. Just as General Klapka, after this brilliant victory, was intending to make a powerful diversion upon the soil of the enemy, either against Vienna

or Styria, and I, on my part, was enlisting with much success, new recruits in the surrounding district, now cleared of the enemy, and had already formed several new battalions, the account of the surrender of Görgey, with the flower of his troops and 140 cannon, came upon us like a thunderbolt. So incredible did this report appear to us, that we were ready to condemn to death, as false spies, those who first announced it, until the number of the fugitives who arrived, sufficiently confirmed the dreadful truth. One universal cry of vengeance arose against this treason of Görgey, which gave the death blow to his country. And now the reality justifies our first conjectures. For while the officers under Görgey had to suffer an ignominious death, he lives at his ease in Klagenfurt under the protection of the Emperor of Austria.

No sooner had this deplorable event taken place, than we were daily disturbed in Comorn by messengers sent from the commanders of the besieging forces, summoning us to an unconditional surrender. But the spirit of our men was good. With firm resolution we rejected the ignominious summons. Every false device was employed to act upon us. The enemy caused Ernest Kiss, one of our captured generals, to write from Arad to General Klapka and Colonel Asserman, telling them of the gracious treatment which those who had surrendered received, and calling on them to imitate Görgey's example, maintaining, among other things, also, that we were bound to follow the Dictator. After the enemy had made such a use of this man, they requited him for the shameful service with powder and lead. Another Hungarian, who had been for a short time residing abroad, a man of no fixed principles, degraded himself to a similar service. A member of the Austrian embassy induced him to write me a letter, attempting to persuade me to the surrender of the fortress. The letter was, however, either delayed, or the enemy's leaders doubted its effect upon me, for it was delivered to me by General Nobili only when the Austrians entered the place. But neither General Klapka nor myself, nor the council of war, listened to these suggestions,

nor to the syren voice of their assurances, but resolved to obtain more accurate information regarding the condition of the country from which we were isolated, and the situation of our troops. We therefore sent four couriers—General Klapka, two officers of the staff, and I two civil officers of rank—to Arad, to find our government; or if this no longer existed, to seek General Bem in Transylvania. These couriers brought back the mournful report of the resignation of the government—of Görgey's treachery—of the occupation of the fortress of Arad, and of the dispersion of the other troops of the interior, after the utterly demoralizing act of Görgey. A later courier brought us the additional news of the passage of the last remnant of our troops over the boundary toward Widdin, and but one consolatory hope remained, that the fortress of Peterwaradein still held out, for we had no certain information concerning it. In such a condition of affairs, at first doubtful, but every day becoming more bitterly clear and certain, we passed five weeks, from the middle of August to about the 20th of September, during which the enemy were shameless enough repeatedly to summon us to an unconditional surrender, and always within the peremptory term of forty-eight hours.

At last we were informed of the surrender of the garrison of Peterwaradein. We had lately dispatched thither a secret courier, to urge them by all means not to yield without honorable conditions, but this courier was taken on the road, and never returned. At the suggestion of General Klapka, the question of a possible capitulation was then seriously discussed in the council of war. The land entirely stripped of defence; the probable fall of Peterwaradein; the crushing, but unavoidable conviction, that the garrison of a single fortress could not possibly renew, with success, the contest for freedom; and the sentiment, that in the impossibility of making another successful effort, we owed it to humanity to save a populous city, which had already made such unlimited sacrifices, from utter destruction; and to preserve the lives of 25,000 brave champions of freedom, among whom are many who may form the germ of a new

struggle for liberty—influenced by these considerations, the principle of capitulation, under suitable conditions, preserving our military honor, was adopted. On this occasion, the civil power being in my person, after the resignation of the government, concentrated, ready to accept the principle of capitulation. But when afterward the conditions themselves were discussed, I insisted upon those of a more extended and favorable nature, and would yield nothing of them. But the majority of the council overruled my opinion, and I was forced to put my opposing vote on the record of the council of war, as Colonel Pragay, who is here present, and who was adjutant general of the army, and also secretary of the council, can testify; and to whom, and also for his faithful and circumstantial record of my vote, and its reasons, I owe many thanks. I must add here, that if, at the commencement, as large a council of war had been held as was afterwards assembled, to which every battalion furnished its representatives, consisting of captains and lieutenants, but which could not rescind the previous resolutions, it would by no means have yielded without more extended and better conditions: for such energy and determination were displayed throughout the corps of officers, that even General Klapka was greatly surprised at it—a new proof, that as well in the ranks of the military as of the civil world, the true principles of freedom and energy are to be found in the masses.

After the conditions had been several times discussed in the council of war, they were finally drawn up in the form which I have the honor of laying before you in the Hungarian and German originals and the English translations, (Appendix.) The original manuscript of this document is in the hands of General Klapka, and we have resolved to deposit it with some one of the embassies at London. It was signed on neutral ground, beyond the walls of the garrison, whither our officers proceeded; but I did not accompany them, because in the first place the terms had already been determined upon in the council of war, and also because I hated the sight of the leaders of the Austrian mercenaries.

The capitulation was accordingly signed on the 27th of September; but a separate stipulation was entered into, that the actual surrender should not take place until a deputation of two officers, one subaltern and one private, had gone, under an Austrian escort, to Peterwaradein, and learned more accurately the condition of that fortress. Alas! they brought back word that the Austrians were rioting within its walls, and that the garrison had surrendered at discretion.

Then came the saddest, most dreadful of my life's days, when the Austrians marched in, and were permitted to plant on the walls of the fortress their black and yellow flag—colors of envy and death. God of Freedom, why must I live to see that day!

This was followed by the marching out of our garrison on different days, during which, the noblest and most touching scenes were displayed. All the flags and their standards were cut in small pieces, of which each would preserve a fragment as a memorial. A great number of arms, especially swords, were broken up, rather than be surrendered to the enemy; but the most moving and heart-stirring incident occurred when a regiment of hussars were drawn up, at the urgent demand of the Austrian general, and asked by General Klapka whether they would enter the Austrian service? But one answer was heard from the ranks: "No, General; for the service of our fatherland we stand ready at a moment's call—for Austria, never!" The imperial generals were abashed, while tears of joy rose to the eyes of our officers. And, in general, I must say, that although we stood there forsaken by the whole world, the courage of the Comorn troops never sank: they had first to be pacified, and taught that a further struggle could have no successful results, before they willingly assented to the surrender.

With the exception of acts of violence on the part of individual officers, the conduct of the Austrians, immediately after the capitulation, and while we were waiting for our passports at Comorn, was forbearing, and not unworthy; which, however, I can ascribe only to the respect

with which we inspired them—especially on the occasion of our last sally. Indeed, I feel called on to mention the gentlemanly treatment we received at the hands of General Nobili, the imperial commandant of the fortress. He is, however, an Italian—not an Austrian or Bohemian reactionary aristocrat. As soon as we had occasion to say that we were American emigrants, we were treated with marked courtesy. Such respect does the mere name of the mighty land of freedom impose upon the instruments of tyranny, that they are cautious of oppressing one who but proposes to become a citizen of this glorious country. This, however, was only in the first days; for when the troops, whose presence held them in check, had marched out, and were dispersed through the country, violations of the capitulation began to take place in the usual perfidious manner of Austrian management—violations, partly underhanded, partly open, which I will attempt to explain in a special protest to the great and noble American people, in order to hold up to their just indignation a government, which, in the madness of its tyranny and in the intoxication of victory, not content with having treacherously deceived a nation for three centuries, now in direct opposition to the law of nations, basely persecutes the unfortunate remnants of a garrison that capitulated on honorable terms, and robs them of the guaranties to which their fidelity and approved bravery had given them a claim.

I will here mention three of the most flagrant of these violations. The second of the articles of surrender gives an unconditional promise of passports to foreign countries. In consequence of this, many who did not have the means requisite for the long journey to America, wrote their names for various countries of Europe; and some, of whom I was one, subscribed at the outset for America. The list was sent to the Austrian authorities previous to the surrender of the fortress. When at the end of a week, we hoped finally to obtain our passports, the announcement was made to us that the ambassadors of all the European Courts, excepting that of England, refused to countersign them—in a word, we were not to be endured

in Europe; and consequently, all those who had signed for France, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, etc., must declare anew whether they would choose America. Some could and did so, but many were forced from want of means to remain behind in their desolated country, maimed and crippled in body and mind, the mournful witnesses of its woes, and soon and surely to become the victims of some newly invented persecution. This must be designated an underhand violation. For had those who negotiated the capitulation on the part of Austria cherished none but honest purposes, they should have previously ascertained from the diplomatic agents whether or not their respective governments would permit our residence in their states: nor is it too much to suppose that the refusal may have been a suggestion of Austria itself.

The second underhand violation was, that in the passports which we received from them, was inserted the wholly unexpected clause "without return." This is a violation, because by the first article of the capitulation, any one belonging to the garrison of Comorn was allowed to remain in the country unmolested, as the permits also give to each of us for a return to our homes. If then we were allowed to remain in the country, we could not be denied a return, nor be subject to banishment instead of a free and unconditional residence in any other land.

But the most open and atrocious violation is, that in which the Austrians indulged against the property, liberty and lives of the prominent members belonging to the garrison of Comorn. I mention definite facts that have been furnished to me by eye-witnesses. By virtue of the first article, no one engaged in Comorn should be subject to a legal prosecution; and by virtue of the sixth article, all property, both movable and real, was to remain undisturbed. Now what happened! The estate of Count Zichi Otto, one of the signers of the capitulation, which lies in the neighborhood of Comorn, was sequestered by Colonel Ballog, an Austrian commissioner, the very next week after the capitulation, as Colonel Pragai, now here, can testify.

Two officers of the Comorn garrison, formerly vice-

Governors of the counties of Weisemburg, one of them, named Csapo, were thrown into prison. A friend of these men, who had spoken with them in prison, gave me this statement, personally, on my journey from Comorn to Hamburgh. An old and venerable friend of mine, Repczky, formerly member of the House of Representatives, and latterly a Major in the garrison of Comorn, who had against my advice returned home, was shortly after seized, arraigned before a Court, and according to the statements in the public prints, executed in the City of Schemnitz. That he has been actually executed, I will not affirm, for I will not go beyond fully ascertained facts; but that he has been imprisoned, and received sentence, was definitely told me by my son-in-law, who came from that quarter to Hamburgh. Such are the violations, of the capitulation that occurred while I was on my way from Comorn to Hamburg—villanies enough for so short a time. What may not have taken place since I left Europe!

The direct motive that impelled my companions and myself to leave our country, has its origin in two causes. The first was, that we knew the faithlessness of Austria for centuries, and could not place the least reliance on an observance of the conditions of capitulation. The violations of them, already referred to, sufficiently justify our opinion; they are in accordance with the ancient and confirmed custom of Austria; so were our delegates from the diet to Windischgratz, Batthianyi and his four companions, detained in the camp of the satellite of tyranny; so formerly the three members of the convention, ambassadors of the French nation, were, at the command of high authority, murdered by the soldiers, in Rastadt; and yet so infamous a government, which regards the law of nations less than do cannibals, is to stand in connection with other, and above all, free nations!

The second cause of our separation from our fatherland, was the irrepressible impulse of our convictions. On the fourteenth of April, we had solemnly sworn to our independence, and forever renounced and condemned royalty as the scourge of humanity. We would have been faithless to

our sacred oath had we longer remained under the dominion of Austria. We regarded our republican principles more than the material interests we were to sacrifice, and with such views, our choice could not be doubtful. We firmly grasped the pilgrim's staff, for we would rather become in the sweat of our brows, poor, but free citizens, than remain ever so prosperous slaves. Whether we may ever again return to our country, depends, in the present condition of things, not on our own wills; for, as we have said above, instead of passports we were treacherously furnished with letters of banishment. But the wish and the hope burn in our breasts, that a new war of freedom may soon arise in Europe, to which we may lend our strength for the attainment of the universal rights of men, of the freedom of the Magyar land, and of our brethren we have left behind, or at least, to secure a better fate.

As regards the number of my brethren who are about to emigrate hither, I cannot speak with entire definiteness. When the officers of the garrison at Comorn first assembled to consult upon the aim and end of our emigration, ninety six of them decided in favor of America: on that occasion, I was chosen, by the confidence of my fellow-citizens, to the future presidency of this society of immigration. While we were obliged to wait for our passports, some others promised to provide, at their respective homes, the means necessary for the journey. Whether they were unable to obtain these means or changed their purpose, I cannot say. During my stay at Hamburg, thirty-five persons, besides those who are now here with me, joined us, and as their departure was not to take place till a week after mine, I think their number may be increased to forty, whose arrival I look for about the middle of January. Agreeably to a resolution passed by the society, I came in advance in the steamer, that I might make some provisions for their first reception. The former position of these my fellow countrymen was, that of superior officers, some Majors, others Captains and Lieutenants, excepting three private citizens, who are mechanics.

The object of this Society:—Our purpose is to become

citizens of this free country, and form a united agricultural colony, excepting a few, who, versed in some departments of science, hope, by their technical skill, to obtain support the present year. We propose to ourselves this end, because Hungary, not being a land of trade and commerce, its inhabitants are mainly occupied in agricultural pursuits, with which we, a few of us excepted, are most familiar, and to which we have the greatest inclination. It is our purpose then, for each of us to tread a path for which habit and experience best fit us. In respect also to the regeneration of the dear country we have left, it is not unimportant that the Hungarian emigration should remain united in one colony, which too may serve as a haven of refuge to those following us, and which surely will aid them in the arrangements of their first settlement.

I must confess, that it is not easy to answer with the requisite modesty, questions concerning our property in Hungary. It is painful to be obliged to speak of one's own circumstances. But the free and noble men of America desire frankness and sincerity, and I must not refuse. Confiscations were constantly occurring in all those districts where the enemy held possession, nor was the confiscation of the real property our sole loss, for the cattle, implements and crops were destroyed, so that, generally, little more than the naked soil and the ruins of buildings were left for confiscation. So it was with my estate: for when in December of last year, Genl. Schlich, from Gallicia, violently entered upon it, and the first unsuccessful battle of Kaschau was fought upon it, the cattle were driven away, my movable property and agricultural stores were destroyed and the soil sequestered for the benefit of the imperial treasury. When, at a later period, Gen. Görgey marched from Presburg past Kaschau, my estate was of course recovered, but only for a short time; for when, still later, the Russians broke in through Gallicia, confiscation again ensued, and since that time, the fields, to whose cultivation I had devoted a great part of my time and attention, have been the constant prey of our insatiate enemies.

The property of all those who owned lands and belong-

ed to the garrison of Comorn, or who were in any other way connected with the Hungarian government, shared substantially the same fate with mine, for latterly, the whole country was in the hands of the enemy, and enough base spies were found to inform them if this or that person were in the ranks of the champions of liberty.

The prospect of a recovery of our property is indeed very doubtful. If the conditions of capitulation that have been so often broken could be relied upon, we might retain our own unmolested, but these conditions are for us a dead letter ; for who is there among the band of the satellites of tyranny, to say one bold, just word for us ? Where are the upright inflexible judges to protect us from the arbitrary will of despotism ?

Yes, we have come here in poverty, and have sacrificed our all in the cause of the revolution ; but by the abolition of Feudalism, we have secured to seven millions of men, once serfs, a right to the soil, of which Austria's dynasty cannot deprive them. If we have not been so fortunate as to lay the foundations of republican freedom, we have at least given a death blow to the material power of the aristocracy, and without the support of an aristocracy, dynasties cannot long maintain themselves. We have then still gained a triumph by our struggles : there are no longer any serfs in Hungary, but each man cultivates his own land. The consciousness of this benefit bestowed on seven millions of men shall requite us for our losses.

New-York, January 1, 1850.

LADISLAUS UJHAZY,

late civil Governor of the Fortress Comorn,
and its dependencies.

TO THEODORE SEDGWICK AND

S. DRAPER, ESQUIRES, *Committee:*

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned, in the beginning of the movements in Hungary, entered the patriotic army of Transylvania. After a short service, I was elected by my fellow patriots, member of the House of Representatives, and as such, I assisted at the diet at Pesth, and afterwards, at Debreczin.

In the month of March, 1849, I was appointed by the President of the Hungarian Government, Louis Kossuth, representative of the Hungarian Nation in foreign countries, and entrusted with a particular mission to the Danubian Provinces, the Courts of Constantinople, Paris and London.

After a dangerous passage through Moldavia, connected with the severest sufferings, privations and imprisonment, seeing no possibility to remain in the Danubian Provinces, under incessant persecutions, I escaped to Constantinople, and there I began my diplomatic intercourse, both with the Court of Constantinople and the ministers of the foreign powers, but after a few days, being detected by the Russian agents, I was threatened with new persecutions. Advised early by some friends, I was obliged to fly again. I then went first to Paris, and thence to London, where, having discharged my diplomatic duties, I came to America, with the purpose to put under way, and carry into execution, a special and highly important affair, about which I had received private instructions from Kossuth.

I worked on my sacred duty, and circumstances led me to cherish hopes of success; but the dreadful downfall of the Hungarian cause has frustrated all, and I am an exile.

I am a native of Transylvania, and have there a considerable property, which was confiscated, in the month of November, 1848, when the Austrian army occupied Transylvania, but after the evacuation of that Pro-

vince by the Austro Russian army, I got my property back, although entirely despoiled, and my residence, as well as all the other buildings, sacked, so that there remained nothing else than the soil.

After the second invasion of the Russians, in the month of June, what was the state of my property? and what is it now? I know nothing about it, having no communication with my family or friends. All I can conjecture, is this: The Austrian Government, since the war, has subjected to confiscation the property of all members of the late Hungarian Diet, and even of those who had rendered any service to the Hungarian Government; consequently my property must be confiscated likewise.

I am married, have a wife and five children; when I left Debreczin, my family remained there, under the protection of Kossuth. What has become of them, and where are they now, I know nothing, having received no letters from them since my departure from Debreczin. I have sent several letters to my wife and friends, but I have never received any answer; the only information that I have got, is in an indirect and uncertain way, that they were seen at Pesth on the 22d of August.

COUNT S. WASS.

NEW-YORK, January 1, 1850.

APPENDIX.

SURRENDER OF THE GARRISON OF COMORN, ON THE
FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. A free retreat of the garrison, without arms; the swords of the officers to remain in their possession.

Foreign passports shall be granted to those officers who have formerly served in the imperial army; to those who do not desire such passports, a safe conduct to their homes shall be granted.

A free residence in their homes, without restriction as to their future conduct and occupation, shall be granted to the honored officers, (National Hungarian Soldiers,) who have not previously been in the imperial service.

An amnesty is granted to the rank and file of the imperial regiments, as well as to those who have been meantime promoted; they are dismissed free, and no legal prosecution shall be hereafter conducted against them.

2. Foreign passports shall be granted to all who apply for them within thirty days.

3. One month's pay to the officers, and ten days' wages to the rank and file, according to the rates of the Imperial Austrian Army, shall be paid in Austrian national bank notes.

4. For the settlement of the various obligations entered into by the garrison, as shown by their orders on the military chest, the sum of five hundred thousand gulden, Convention's—Munze, (about \$250,000,) shall be paid in Austrian bank notes.

5. The sick and wounded in Comorn, and in the hospitals, shall be properly cared for.

6. Private property, both real and personal, shall, in general, be retained by the owners.

7. The place, time and manner of surrendering arms, shall be hereafter determined.

8. All hostilities shall immediately cease on both sides.

9. The fortress shall surrender according to the usages of war, and after mutual ratification.

PUSZTA HERKALY, the 27th September, 1849.

HAYNAU, M. P.

F. Z. M.

TAKATS, M. P., Captain.

GASPARETZ, Captain.

MEDNYAMSZKY Colonel.

JOHN PRAGAY, Colonel.

STEFAN RUTKAY, Colonel.

COUNT OTTO ZICHY, Colonel.

COUNT PAUL ESTERHAZY, Colonel.

JOHN JANIK, Colonel.

SIGMUND SZABO, Colonel, Commandant in the town.

JOSEF VON KASZONYI, Colonel.

FRANZ ASSERMAN, Colonel, Commandant in the fortress.

GEORG. KLAPKA, Commander-in-chief of the fortress and troops.

Agreeing with the original. Comorn the 29th September, 1849.

SZILLANYI, *Chief of the General Staff.*







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